



SPRING DANCE

May 8, 1999

Lavender Rhythm presents a Spring Dance
Featuring... Maze'....one of Kalamazoo's premiere DJ's

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. (Michigan time) 8 p.m. to Midnight (Indiana time)
at the Pickwick Place, 219 N. 4th St. in Niles, Michigan
Wimmin Only.....\$7.00 at the door
Inside Smoking Room.....BYOB
Door Prizes.....Snacks

******MAZE' WILL BE TEACHING SWING LESSONS 1 HOUR BEFORE THE DANCE BEGINS**

*****Plan on attending this dance. Ask your friends to attend. Spread the word. These dances are a lot of fun!!!
WE NEED TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT FOR THIS EVENT!!**

OLIVIA OLE!

Marcia and I recently returned from an Olivia Cruise. There are not enough words to explain the fun, beauty and excitement of being on an Olivia Cruise. Four of us departed early Saturday for Fort Lauderdale to ensure arrival before Sunday's embarkment. We boarded the Sea Breeze after clearing customs and were escorted to our cabins by one of the Cruise Staff. After seeing some of the inside cabins, we were happy we opted to pay a little more for a larger room on the outside with windows. After a wild Bon Voyage party complete with confetti on an upper deck with the entertainers (Vicki Shaw, Suede, Lisa Koch, Zoe Lewis, Halycon, and Susan Jeremy), Olivia Staff, Cruise Director (who was gay) and staff, and about 400+ women, the ship's horns blew and the wild music began. What a festive time!! Our stops included Cozumel, Mexico, Roatan, Honduras, Belize and Key West, Fl. Each port offered numerous excursions like snorkeling, city tours, beach parties etc. You could opt to take one of these or stay on the boat. We were met at two of the ports by groups of dancing women and we were sure three of them had pink triangles on their belts..

While at sea there were numerous activities like Bingo, horse racing, talent shows, oldywed/newlywed games, swimming, or you could try your luck in the casino. One of our friends did pretty well at blackjack, but the slots seemed to like my nickels. The food was wonderful, and there was plenty of it almost continuously at the buffets. The night time meal was sit down and served by waiters. Our waiter, Timothy, was always cheerful and helpful in making recommendations from the menu. On Thursday night all of the waiters put on tropical shirts and after dinner did a Calypso dance and on the last night all of the waiters sang and held sparklers, it was really beautiful and what fun. After dinner each night there was a different performer. Of course our favorite was Vicki Shaw (a very funny comedian) and we nearly split our sides in laughter. If you've not seen Vicki, you should plan on attending the Music Festival in Muncie this summer. Of course all the entertainers were great, but a real highlight was when they all joined Halycon after their set for a jam session.

If you've never been on an Olivia Cruise; all I can say is put it on your priority list of things to do. Too expensive you say; they have a plan to make it affordable. Single? They have a SOLOS group of singles and many planned activities. Too old? They have OWLS (Older and Wiser Lesbians) activities and boy do they boogie. Don't know how to dance? They offer dance lessons for almost every type of popular dance. Prefer Ballroom?, Calypso?, Rock and Roll?, Line Dancing -- there was an opportunity to do all of these kinds of dances.

Want to know more about their future cruises or land tours? Call them at 800-631-6277 and have them send you a brochure, or check out their web site at www.oliviatravel.com. If you have any questions you can E-mail them at info@oliviatravel.com. or call Marcia or I. We're ready to go again. --Kaye

COMMUNITY EVENTS



"SINGLED OUT", Saturday, May 15, 5:00 P.M. Campfire and potluck at the Southside Christian Church. Bring a dish to pass and a lawn chair. And remember, everyone is invited, single or not!! For more information &/or directions, call Linda, 219-257-9082 or Lynn: 219-259-6801..... Coming in June, a one day gay pride festival in Indy

Mountain Moving Coffeehouse: 1650 West Foster, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Andersonville, IL 773-973-9934

Saturday, May 8, 7:30 P.M. Cris Williamson & Tret Fure singers/songwriters

Saturday, June 5, 7:30 P.M. Deidre McCalla singer/songwriter

Saturday, July 10, 7:30 P.M. Alix Dobkin returns for her yearly July visit

For Immediate Release: The TSA Youth Group will have a new volunteer training on Saturday, May 22, from 11am-4pm in Evansville. Lunch will be provided. Volunteers must be at least 25 years of age, go through a screening process, and be available to donate one evening a month to co-facilitate the youth group. The TSA Youth Group meets every week, and serves Southwestern Indiana, Northwestern Kentucky and Southern Illinois. For more information about this youth group training, call TSA President, Wally Paynter at (812) 474-4873, fax him at 812-475-8811, or e-mail him at paynter@midwest.net.

PrideFest '99 is June 12: Justice, Inc. is proud to announce that the Indianapolis Pride Festival will once again be held at Veterans Memorial Plaza in downtown Indianapolis on Saturday, June 12. It will last from 10:30am - 7pm. Last year over 12,000 members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allies community attended. For booth registration information, contact event chair Alan Witchey at 317-632-0123 ext. 237 or 317-465-9126 (before 10 PM), fax 317-632-4362, e-mail paulnalan@aol.com, or by mail at Justice Pride Festival, Attention: Alan Witchey, 5826 North Oxford Street, Indianapolis, IN 46220.

June 18- 20....Michigan Pride March, Rally & Festival in Lansing, Michigan. The theme this year is "Liberty and Justice for All". If you would like to volunteer call 517-371-8466 or e-mail pride@michiganpride.com

June 17-20...National Women's Music Festival on the campus of Ball State University, Muncie, IN. All indoor festival featuring 10 concerts (Janis Ian, Ferron, Cris Williamson & Tret Fure, Teresa Trull & Barbara Higbie, Ubaka Hill, and more), theater presentations, a comedy concert and over 150 workshops. For more info, write NWMF, PO Box 1427, Indianapolis, IN. 46206 or call 317-927-9355, e-mail; wia@indy.net On the web: <http://www.a1.com/wia> (that's a 1 (one) not an "L")

August 10 thru 15, Michigan Womyn's Music Festival: Continuing strong after 24 consecutive years, this festival attracts 5-8000 women for a week-long event that includes 40 performances, 200 workshops, a Film Festival, crafts Faire and 650 secluded acres for camping. Artists scheduled include: Suzanne Westenhoefer, Urban Bush Women, Dar Williams, The Drumsong Orchestra with Ubaka Hill, Marga Gomez, Cris Williamson & Tret Fure, Tribe 8 and others. For further information, write to WWTMC, PO Box 22, Walhalla MI 49458, call 616-757-4766 or visit www.michfest.com

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP Every Tuesday 7-9 P.M. For Info, write: LSG, P.O. BOX 1612, MISHAWAKA, IND. 46544

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN (NOW) Child care is available and provided for free if you call Ellyn at 289-2126 by Monday before the meeting. Meetings are open to the public and will be the fourth Wednesday from 7 - 9 p.m. of each month (thru May) then cancelled during the summer until September, Lower Level...St. Joseph County Public Library, 304 S. Main, S. Bend, more info: Penny 291-2342, Rhoda 288-7123

PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Meetings are from 2 to 4 p.m. the 4th Sunday of the month at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 17195 Cleveland Road, South Bend. For Info...Nancy 219-277-2684, or write P.O. Box 4195, S. Bend, 46634

TO LIST YOUR GROUP OR UPCOMING EVENT ON THIS PAGE: PLEASE allow 45 days advance notice and send the information to: PO BOX 845, MISHAWAKA, IN 46546



On Sat. April 24, 7:30PM, the Southside Christian Church hosted a Coffeehouse with entertainment by local pianist, Sherry K. promoting her new CD "Westbound." Carolyn Balog accompanied Sherry, playing flute on two numbers and Sherry's Mother played piano on the audience sing-along, "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean." Everyone enjoyed a fun-filled musical evening and we would like to thank the Southside Christian Church and Martha for sponsoring this wonderful event.



THE TAO OF BUTCH

by Lee Lynch

It's time to speak out. My patience has worn thin. The Tao of butch is being misrepresented. .

Normally I ignore these on-line questionnaires that help one evaluate how femme or butch one is. This one came as a semi-challenge from friends. The attorney who sent it bemoaned her score, lowered by the nylons requirement that afflicts female practitioners of her craft. Her entrancingly femme partner racked up a satisfying minus score, commenting -- or bragging -- "I guess you can't pass every test you take."

I innocently plunged in, but was almost immediately stopped in my overconfident tracks.

"Does the vehicle you drive most have standard transmission?" (3 points) Well, no, I just bought my very first automatic a couple of years ago. Shifting was too hard on the aging body, although I suffered through twenty years of tendonitis from sheer pride and unwillingness to accept my disability.

"Do you regularly wear men's cologne or after shave?" (2 points) Well, no, not any more. Both Lover and I are severely allergic to artificial fragrances and have difficulty being in the same room, even on the same planet with people who perfume themselves.

I lost two points because I don't lift weights. I was never that anxious to spend my life in the chiropractor's office, but now I'm under strict orders from the doc to avoid heavy lifting.

I appealed to the attorney. She ruled, "Okay, I agree, some of the questions require a slight modification: 'Do you' should be read throughout as 'Have you ever.' Fair enough?"

Fair enough. Of course I've owned foreign cars. Of course I've worn steel-toed work boots. I just discarded the beloved shit kickers I bought in 1970. When I was a romantic youth wearing keys on my belt was indeed a major pride. I never tried to tie a cherry stem into a knot with my tongue, but you bet I used to drink shots.

So, as the lead singer melodically boasts in Carolyn Gage's musical comedy "The Amazon All-stars," "I'm a butch, I'm a butch, I'm a big bad butch!" I admit to some amused ego gratification at my score which put me in the (surprise!) "decidedly diesel" category. But I have some questions for the Questionnaire.

Why would any one do anything that hurt her body for twenty years, whether shifting gears with an injured arm or drinking oneself silly downing shots of alcohol? Because that's how I demonstrated my identity? Do femmes have their own tortuous rituals? High heels come to mind. Hard to believe as femmes are generally more sane than silly show-off butches.

Do the newly out, say the 43 year old single mom who's just left her hetero marriage of twenty-one years, take these jesting questions as standards? Who will teach her differently? I learned by example, aping my elders, but that kind of imperative isn't as powerful as seeing "Do you ever wear a leather collar?" (5 points) in print. Of course, she may read fashion rags and think collars and leashes are alluring. Naive me, I thought that was an SM practice, not butch.

I hope no baby butch concludes that her native talents and what she's born with aren't enough to please her girlfriend and that a dildo (1 point) is required rather than optional equipment. Or that she'd be a sissy to shave her armpits (minus 1) if she's trying to make a living as a ballerina.

It may be all in fun, but these things stick. They enter our culture or, if already there, are reinforced. Don't we already know from the dominant culture that it is not okay to be too old or too disabled to want to climb mountains and raft rivers? (10 points per event.) Some expectations are our own fault. Butches don't crochet. (Like heck we don't.) Butches carry knives with four inch blades. (Only at Girl Scout camp).

Yes, I'm making too much of it all. It's a holdover from the days when highly politicized women tried in vain to teach me how to be a lesbian after I'd been doing it since the first time I rolled a packet of candy cigarettes into a shirt sleeve.

The way to approach these things is with my retired friend's sense of fun. "Do you own more than 3 flannel shirts?" (+2) She answered, "Of course--69. How about a point for each one?"

There's also, I'll admit, a bit of butch arrogance speaking here. "Do you have a black leather jacket with lots of zippers?" (+5) Well, I challenge any leather jacket any straight girl can buy at any Target store to out-butch my cracked, faded, fleece-lined brown leather authentic flight jacket which I bought years ago in San Francisco. But then, as Lover says, "It's not the jacket, it's the way you wear it."

Now that's the Tao of butch.

COURT OF FRIENDS



Okay, all you singles! Looking for that special someone? Here is your opportunity to reach out to other singles. Write out what you want other singles to know about you and what you are seeking in another. Open Arms will run your ad for 2-3 months. You can resubmit or cancel at any time.

Open Arms reserves the right to edit for length and/or content any letters submitted for publication.

Send your ad to: The Court of Friends, P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, In. 46546 You will be assigned an ID number. Your letter and ID number will be published in the next issue. Those wishing to respond to a published single, may do so by enclosing their reply in a **stamped, sealed envelope with the ID number written in PENCIL on the front of the envelope**. Place your reply into another envelope and mail to the Court of Friends. Your reply will then be addressed to the corresponding single and mailed.

#81.....Hi,

I am a single woman looking for a single woman. I like to hang out at the Mall. I do a lot of walking and bike riding. I am looking for a good friendship.

#82.....42-year-old white female, non-smoker, passionate, warm, honest, responsible, caring, good listener, considered to be good looking and easy-going. ISO a kind, caring, honest feminine/soft butch woman in the Southwest Michigan area between the age of 41-50 to share new experiences and interests that are not limited to music, gardening, outdoor activities, short weekend trips, movies, dining, romance and intimate talks. Friendship and/or possible LTR.

Justice, Inc. is looking for several volunteers to help with the work of the organization. Current volunteer opportunities include the positions of Treasurer, Speakers Bureau Chair, Lesbian Health Chair, Voters Registration Chair, Media Spokesperson, and volunteer coordinator. Justice is also seeking new board members who reside outside of the Marion County area.



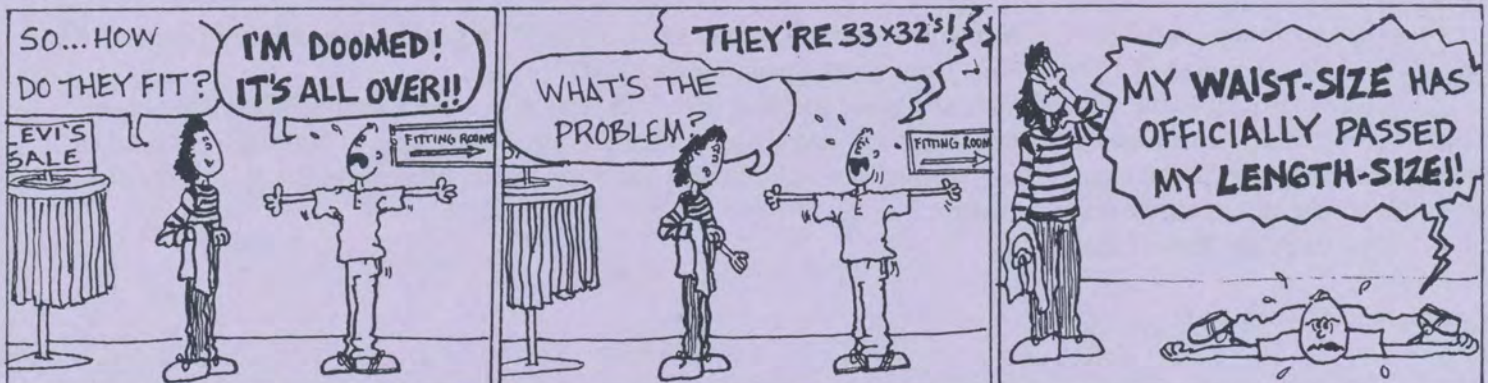
If you are interested in serving in one of these positions, please call Justice President Wally Paynter at either 812-474-4873 or 317-634-9212, or e-mail him at volunteers@justiceinc.org, or fax him at 812-475-8811.

If Only Life Could Be Like a Computer!

If you messed up your life, you could press "Ctrl, Alt, Delete" and start all over!
To get your daily exercise, just click on "run"! If you needed a break from life, click on suspend.
Hit "any key" to continue life when ready.
To get even with the neighbors, turn up the sound blaster.
To add/remove someone in your life, click settings and control panel.
To improve your appearance, just adjust the display settings.
If life gets too noisy, turn off the speakers.
When you loose your car keys, click on find.
"Help" with the chores is just a click away.
Auto insurance wouldn't be necessary. You would use your diskette to recover from a crash.
And, we could click on "SEND NOW" and a Pizza would be on it's way to YOU...

Lesbians Moms needed for research project.... Looking for women who are parenting to complete questionnaires about your relationships with services in the community and to volunteer for face-to-face interviews about your experiences as parents. Call Lucy Mercier at 517-353-8621 or e-mail: lucy.mercier@ssc.msu.edu

treat's street





WELLNESS CORNER

By Susan Myers, R.N.,
LCSW, HTP, Holistic Health Counselor

"Ten Guidelines for Enlightenment" by Swami Beyondananda

1. Be a FUNdamentalist - ensure that the fun always comes before the mental. Realize that life is a situation comedy that will never be canceled. A laugh track has been provided and the reason we are put in the material world is to get more material. Have a good laugh twice a day, which will ensure regular hilarity.
2. Remember that each of us has been given a special gift just for entering, so you are already a winner!
3. The most powerful tool on the planet today is Tell-A-Vision. That's where I tell a vision to you and you tell a vision to me. That way, if we don't like the programming we're getting, we can change the channel.
4. Life is like photography - you use the negative to develop. No matter what adversity you face, be reassured: of course God loves you - He's just not ready to make a commitment.
5. It is true. As we go through life thinking heavy thoughts, thought particles tend to get caught between the ears and cause a condition called "truth decay." Be sure to use mental floss twice a day, and when you're tempted to practice "tantrum yoga," remember what we teach in Swami's Absurdity Training Class: Don't get even, get odd.
6. If we want world peace, we must let go of our attachments and truly live like nomads. That's where I no mad at you and you no mad at me. That way there'll surely be nomadness on the planet. Peace begins with each of us. A little peace here, a little peace there. Pretty soon all the peaces will fit together to make one big peace everywhere.
7. I know great Earth changes have been predicted for the future, so if you're looking to avoid earthquakes my advice is simple: When you find a fault don't dwell on it.
8. There's no need to change the world. All we have to do is toilet train the world and we'll never have to change it again.
9. If you're looking for the key to the Universe I've got some good news and some bad news. The bad news: there is no key to the Universe. The good news: it was never locked.
10. Finally, everything I've told you is channeled. That way, if you don't like it it's not my fault. But remember- enlightenment is not a bureaucracy, so you don't have to go through channels.

FOR SALE (THROUGH SPRING 1999)

Pandora's books serves spiritual journey, personal growth, les/bi/gay, women, multicultural, and justice issues clientele 17 years in pleasant Kalamazoo, MI but could be moved to new locale. Needs new energy and ideas. Financially capable inquiries only.

Call River, 616-388-5656 Tues-Thur 12-7pm, Fri & Sat 12-6pm
(if not sold, will close summer 1999)

Happy Spring! Bring in this ad and take 25% off your purchase (once) through May 29, 1999

Justice, Inc.

Seeks Volunteers for Lesbian Health Project, Speakers Bureau, Voters Registration Drive
For more information, contact Justice at: (317) 634-9212 or e-mail us at lesbianhealth@justiceinc.org
Justice, Inc., PO Box 2387, Indianapolis, IN 46206
Justice, Inc. is Indiana's Statewide Civil Rights Organization
On Gay, Lesbian and HIV issues

IN THE NEWS

From the South Bend Tribune.....

Of the 20 million businesses in the United States, more than a third are owned by women. *The figures tell the tale...in 1997, 8.5 million businesses owned by women which employ 23.7 million people and generate 3.1 trillion dollars in sales.* The number of women-owned business leaped nearly 90% in the decade ending in 1997. According to the National Foundation for Women Business Owners, women-owned businesses' sales grew 161% and their work forces grew 262% between 1987 and 1997. And consider this: 23 percent of women-owned firms have Web site compared with 16 percent of firms owned by men and nearly half of women business owners have Internet access compared to 41 % of men.

One of the two men charged in the murder of Matthew Shepard was sentenced to two consecutive life terms and will not be eligible for parole. Russell Henderson, a 21 year-old high school dropout and roofer, pleaded guilty to murder to avoid a trial and possible death sentence. Aaron McKinney, the co-defendant in the case, will be tried in August on first-degree murder, kidnapping and aggravated robbery charges.

Happy 5th
Anniversary
to my love,
NANCY
From LAURA



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Barbara Mueller
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OPEN ARMS STAFF

Please send submissions to

Open Arms,

P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN. 46546

e-mail address mbdjkj@juno.com

e-mail address suze3@juno.com

Kaye & Marcia.....219-271-0338

Suze.....219-254-8676 (beeper)

OPEN ARMS MISSION STATEMENT

Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community. *Open Arms* is discreetly mailed 12 times a year in a security envelope with a P.O. Box return address only. Our mailing list is kept confidential and never given to other publications or special interest groups.

Justice, Inc.

Seeks Volunteers for

Lesbian Health Project Speakers Bureau

Voters Registration Drive

For more information, contact Justice at:

(317) 634-9212 or e-mail us at

lesbianhealth@justiceinc.org

Justice, Inc., PO Box 2387, Indianapolis, IN 46206

Justice, Inc. is Indiana's Statewide Civil Rights Organization

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Advertising rates are billed as follows:

For the calendar year beginning January 1, and running 12 months thru December 31, a business card sized insert (2" x3 1/2") is \$10.00. For a limited time insert, the cost is \$1.00 per month

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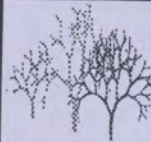
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MAY 1999

ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH

1st..... Sherill and Lori
 8th..... Barb W. Celia W. 1979
 11th..... Shelly M. & Michele E.,
 11th..... Des & Kelly

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

12th..... Becky M.
 15th..... Kim Z.
 19th..... Diane M.
 21st..... P.L. Searls,
 23rd..... Pam D.
 27th..... Lynn B
 31st..... Barb W., Mary B.

OTHER EVENTS

15th... Chris Williamson & Tret Fure
 in concert MSU Lansing, MI
 Info: 517-339-6841
 15th..... WHAM (Women's Health
 Action of Mich. 1st statewide Les/bi
 health conference Info: Midwest AIDS
 Prevention project 248-545-1435
www.AIDSPrevention.org/lesbianconf
 27th..... Tribute to Women, sponsored
 by the YWCA, Coretta Scott, featured
 speaker 11:30 AM, CenturyCenter

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8  Lavender Rhythm's Spring Dance in Niles, MI
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